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Date: Oct 19, 2018

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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CASSETTE NO. 771868 FRAME NO. 1443 RELAY LEVEL MESSAGE

VZCZCPSA619ILN616 [redacted] ZYUW
PACS 79063
ACTION
DIA:
DISTR
CJCS DJS J3(14) J5(02) J3:NMCC SECDEF(07) SECDEF:
ASD:ISA(10) :DIA(15) NMIC
- CMC WASHINGTON DC
CMC
- CSAF WASHINGTON DC
- CNO WASHINGTON DC
- CSA WASHINGTON DC
- C I A
- SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
- WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
- NSA WASH DC
FILE(1)
(049)

TRANSIT/181925Z/191135Z/016:DOTOR2311133
DE RUESBAA 0675 2302200
ZNY [redacted] ZZH
R 181925Z AUG 77
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC/RCI-1
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RULPAFA/24TH COMPW HOWARD AFB CZ/IN
BT
[redacted] 0675 AUG 77
SUBJ: THIS IS IR (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA (AR)
2. (b)(3):10 USC 424
3. (U) INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY - DISAPPEARANCE OF LAWYERS AND AMBASSADOR SOLA
4. N/A
5. 770811
6. 770815
7. 7708, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
8. D-S6A-49397/CONTINUES
9. B-2
10. (b)(3):10 USC 424
11. NO
12. (b)(3):10 USC 424
13.

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15. DIRCT NO: NOFORN TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO HOST GOVT
16. SUMMARY: (U) THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO VENEZUELA HIDALGO SOLA CONTINUES TO MISTIFY THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE ARMED FORCES. THERE CONTINUE TO BE RUMORS THAT THE NAVY OR ARMY SECURITY ELEMENTS HAVE KIDNAPPED SOLA, BUT BOTH GENERAL VIDELA AND ADMIRAL MASSERA HAVE SAID THEY HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.
22. DETAILS: [redacted]

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

Sec. 3.3(b)(1)

A LENGTHY DISCUSSION [redacted] ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPACT THAT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SOLA AND SEVERAL LAWYERS IN THE LA PLATA AREA IS HAVING ON THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL IMAGE OF THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT [redacted] DURING A RECENT MEETING OF ALL THE ACTIVE DUTY ARMY GENERALS, THE SOLA CASE HAD BEEN THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE. SOURCE A SAID THAT EACH OF THE GENERALS HAD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOLA DISAPPEARANCE. ONE GENERAL HAD THREATENED TO RETIRE AT THAT MOMENT IF THE ARMY COULD NOT GET A BETTER HANDLE ON WHERE SOLA IS, AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DISAPPEARANCE.

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2. [redacted] SOURCE B, DURING A DISCUSSION THAT HE HAD INITIATED CONCERNING THE VISITS OF MS. PATRICIA DERIAN, ASSIST. SEC. STATE TODMAN, AND TWO CODELS, SAID THAT DURING A RECENT JUNTA MEETING IN WHICH HE WAS PRESENT, THE CINC OF THE NAVY, ADMIRAL MASSERA, WAS CONFRONTED BY GENERAL VIDELA AND BRIGADIER AGOSTI TO EXPLAIN THE PERSISTANT RUMORS THAT THE NAVY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF SOLA, AND THE LA PLATA LAWYERS. SOURCE B SAID THAT MASSERA DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE KIDNAPPINGS, AND LITERALLY SWORE ON THE BIBLE THAT THE NAVY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THE DISAPPEARANCES. SOURCE B THEN WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT THE JUNTA IS VERY AWARE AND CONCERNED WITH THE IMPACT THESE DISAPPEARANCES ARE HAVING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE, BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. SOURCE B CONFIDED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE AND MODERATION IN THE GENERAL GUIDELINES PROVIDED TO SECURITY FORCES FOR COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS. WHEN [redacted]

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SUGGESTED THAT THESE DISAPPEARANCE MIGHT BE A REACTION BY SOME OF THE SECURITY FORCES TO THE MORE STRICT GUIDELINES, SOURCE B SAID THAT HE REALLY HAD NOT THOUGHT ABOUT IT, BUT THAT THE

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POSSIBILITY EXISTED. HE SAID THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT THE DISAPPEARANCES WERE NOT THE RESULT OF AN AUTHORIZED COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE OPERATION. HE THEORIZED THAT THE GROUPS WHICH GAINED THE MOST FROM THE DISAPPEARANCES ARE THE SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS, AND THEREFORE IT SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED THAT THEY HAVE BOTH SOLA AND THE LAWYERS. SOURCE B THEN SAID THAT PERHAPS SOLA HAD CAUSED HIS OWN KIDNAPPING IN ORDER TO LATER RE-APPEAR, BLAME EITHER THE GOVERNMENT, OR ONE OF THE SUBVERSIVE GROUPS, AND REAP HUGE POLITICAL BENEFITS FOR THE FUTURE. SOURCE B FINISHED HIS DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC BY STATING THAT THERE ARE ONLY TWO FACTS TO DEAL WITH IN THE SOLA: A. SOLA HAS DISAPPEARED, AND B. NONE OF THE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS WILL ADMIT TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE. EVERYTHING ELSE IS SPECULATION.
3. [redacted] SOURCE C, IN AN EARLIER DISCUSSION OF THE SOLA CASE, (b)(3):10 USC 424 ALTHOUGH HE IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE APPROVAL FOR ALL ARGAF SECURITY OPERATIONS, HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THE SOLA MATTER, OR WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE LAWYERS. WHEN [redacted] SUGGESTED THAT THE RUMORS ABOUT THE ARMY OR NAVY HAVING RUN THE OPERATIONS SOURCE SHRUGGED HIS SHOULDERS

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Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

[redacted] SOURCE C ADDED THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO SOLA.
COMMENT: [redacted] BUENOS AIRES IS ALIVE WITH SPECULATION AND THEORIES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAWYERS, AND TO SOLA, AND WHY. SOURCE B'S COMMENT ABOUT THE ONLY TWO FACTS IN THE SOLA CASE IS PROBABLY TRUE. FROM THAT POINT ON, ALL IS CONJECTURE. THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF AN OPERATION THAT COULD SUCCESSFYLLY KIDNAP SOLA WOULD REQUIRE MORE RESOURCES THAN THE SUBVERSIVES MIGHT BE WILLING TO RISK FOR THIS TYPE OF ACTION. IN THE CONTEXT OF ARGENTINE POLITICAL MANEUVERING PERHAPS EVEN A "SELF-KIDNAPPING" CAN NOT BE RULED OUT, ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR SOLA'S FAMILY AND PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE THIS THE LEAST

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KIKELY POSSIBILITY. (b)(3):10 USC 424
THERE HAS BEEN A NEW SET OF GUIDELINES ON COUNTER SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS ISSUED TO THE SECURITY FORCES. THESE GUIDELINES ARE REPORTEDLY SIGNIFICANTLY MORE RESTRICTIVE AND MODERATE, AND REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL MORE CONTROL AND APPROVAL THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE PREVIOUSLY. IT IS FEASIBLE THAT A UNIT OR UNITS OF POLICE, OR FROM ONE OF THE SERVICES, AS

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A REACTION AGAINST THE MORE MODERATE GUIDELINES, HAS KIDNAPPED SOLA AND THE LAWYERS AS ACTS OF DEFIANCE. THIS SCENARIO WOULD EXPLAIN THE EASE WITH WHICH THE OPERATIONS WERE CARRIED OFF, AND COULD ALSO EXPLAIN WHY THE SENIOR MILITARY LEADERSHIP CLAIM TO HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED. REGARDLESS OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES, (b)(3):10 USC 424 INDICATIONS THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE EXPENDING SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES. THE IMPORTANT QUESTION WILL BE WHAT ACTION THE GOA WILL TAKE AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCES, IF THEY ARE FOUND TO BE AMONG THE SECURITY FORCES.
THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORD W/EMBASSY.
~~GDS DEC 1982~~
BT
#0675
ANNOTES
JOE 117